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Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

Reference is made to your memorandum of July 16, 1948 concerning the establishment of an emergency radio station at [redacted]

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The Department reaffirms the necessity for having adequate radio facilities at [redacted] at the earliest possible date. After thorough consideration, the Department also considers it highly desirable to continue the stations at [redacted] as at present.

It is felt that the installation at [redacted] is performing a very important function for the Legation. Although a recent SAQ note pointed out that such installations are prohibited, the Department instructed the Legation to do everything possible to effect its continuation at least temporarily.

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It is understood that the Navy Department has recently instructed its communications team at [redacted] to operate the network station there on a temporary basis. If this procedure can continue until recruiting difficulties are overcome, it would appear the most desirable method of solving the personnel shortage. Perhaps this would allow the operator being shifted to [redacted] to be sent to [redacted] on an emergency basis until additional operators can be obtained. In any event, while [redacted] has U. S. Naval facilities available, the [redacted] request is considered

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more urgent.

Although the establishment of radio facilities at [] working directly with stations located [] countries may result in further attempts to force discontinuance of certain stations, it is the only certain means of transmitting urgent communications, particularly during emergencies. This, in effect, is the basis for the network.

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The Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs has reviewed the request made here, and concurs in it.

Sincerely yours,

Reed Harris
Chief

Division of Communications and Records

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter,
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

*orig. sent for
reply and return
to CCD.*

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no Aug. 48.